

HOUSE BILL 2403

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,  
Chapter 5 and Title 38, Chapter 7, relative to the  
release of human remains.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-7-118, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) The body or remains of any dead human subject to an autopsy or pathology examination pursuant to this part must be delivered to the next of kin as soon as practicable after the completion of the autopsy or pathology examination.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if notice is received from the district attorney general or a law enforcement agency that the next of kin may be under investigation in connection with the death of the human subject of the autopsy or pathology examination, then the body or remains of any dead human subject to autopsy or pathology examination pursuant to this part must be held for fourteen (14) days after the completion of the autopsy or pathology examination unless:

(1) Otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(2) The notice is rescinded by the initiating district attorney general or law enforcement agency.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.